Government of Manipur have also informed that they have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development for assistance towards rehabilitation of affected persons.

Statehood for Delhi

786. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to grant Statehood to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Strengthening Police Forces of North-Eastern States

787. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to strengthen police forces of the North-Eastern States to phase out Army's involvement in counter-insurgency operation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Central Government has been providing assistance for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States. Under the Special scheme for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States, arms and ammunition and vehicles costing Rs. 35 crores have been provided in kind during 1997-98. Under the general scheme for modernisation of police forces, an amount of Rs. 9,85,92,000 has been released during 1997-98 to North Eastern States.

Bomb Explostions in the Country

788. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb explosions in the country during the last three years, State-wise, and agencies involved and the number of persons apprehended in connection with such blasts;

(b) whether investigations revealed involvement of ISI inciting terrorism against India within her territory and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details of such involvement and action initiated by Government to deal with such attempt in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Assam Accord

789. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame for clause-wise implementation of Assam Accord has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of Indo-Bangladesh Border along Assam that has been completely sealed to prevent infiltration from across the border; and

(d) the reasons for slow progress in sealing the broder as envisaged in Assam Accord?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. However, certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltrators crossing/attempting to cross the border, etc. and therefore, it is not possible to specify and time-frame by which all the provisions could be implemented.

(c) 83% of sanctioned border fencing of 158 kms. has been completed on Assam-Bangladesh border.

(d) The main reason for slow progress of construction of a fence in Assam Sector is reported to be inadequate availability of funds.

Pakistani Assistance to Insurgents

790. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that Pakistan is assisting insurgents in Bihar, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistan to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country. The Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI activities in all parts of the country whenever these come to notice. Also a series of steps have been taken including legal measures and diplomatic initiatives to curb and contain terrorist and criminal activities.

Killings of Dalits in Rajasthan

791. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 28th April, 1998 under the caption "when cruelty raised its ugliest face" reporting the barbaric killings of dalits in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto;

(c) whether any directive has been given to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the news-item referred to in part (a) of the question. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

Killings of Civilians in Ethnic Clashes in Assam

792. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some militant groups like ULFA and Bodo during ethnic clashes have been killing several innocent people including tribals for more than four years;

(b) if so, the number of people killed by each group category-wise, each year;

(c) whether Government of Assam is incapable of maintaining law and order in the State thus risking the lives of law abiding citizens of the State;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action against the State Government in terms of provisions of the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Bodo militants particularly NDFB have been indulging in ethnic violence since 1993.

(b) The estimated number of persons killed by Bodo militants in the last five years, year-wise is given below:—

Year	No. of persons killed
1993	25
1994	85
1995	50
1996	260
1997	90

(c) to (e) The Government of Assam has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation under control. Additional security forces have been deployed in the affected areas. The situation is under constant watch and review.

The State Government has also set up 18 relief camps and is providing relief materials including food. It has also announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to next of kith and kin of each of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each family whose houses had been burnt down.

Government of India is keeping a close watch on the situation and rendering necessary assistance to Government of Assam.

Punishment for Dowry Giver and Takers

793. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has suggested that severe punishment be given to givers and takers of dowry;

(b) whether it has also been suggested that strict laws be framed to ban remarriage of those men whose wives had been burnt for dowry;

(c) whether these suggestions also include tough anti-dowry laws and celebration of year 1999 as 'Dowry-less' year;

(d) whether Government are committed to remove such social stigma in the society; and